

Message Text

SECRET

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TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

S E C R E T STATE 314126

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, SU

SUBJECT: U.S. POLICY TOWARD THE SUDAN

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REFERENCE: JIDDA 8361

1. THE OUTLINE OF U.S. POLICY TOWARD SUDAN THAT WE ARE GIVING TO FAHMY REPRESENTS A RESPONSE TO PROBINGS GROWING OUT OF CONTINUED EGYPTIAN SUSPICION THAT WE ARE SUPPORTING SADIQ AL-MAHDI, AND FROM A MORE GENERAL CONCERN ABOUT THE EVOLUTION OF EVENTS IN SUDAN. WE BELIEVE THAT IF WE PROVIDE THE SAUDIS WITH FULL BUT NONETHELESS UNSOLICITED BACKGROUND ON THE FAHMY REQUEST, WE ARE LIKELY TO RAISE IN THEIR MINDS MORE DOUBTS THAN WE QUIET. WE WISH, NEVERTHELESS, TO BE FRANK WITH THE SAUDIS SHOULD THEY GET WIND OF OUR COMMENTS TO FAHMY AND BE ABLE TO ASSURE THEM THAT THERE IS NO NEW SECRET

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DEPARTURE IN U.S. POLICY TOWARD SUDAN. YOU ARE THEREFORE AUTHORIZED TO DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING (EXTRACTED FROM OUR INSTRUCTIONS TO HERMANN EILTS) IN BRIEFING THE SAUDIS ON AN "IF ASKED" BASIS:

2. IT IS OFFICIAL U.S.

POLICY TO SUPPORT THE LEGAL GOVERNMENT OF SUDAN HEADED BY

PRESIDENT NIMEIRI. SINCE NIMEIRI'S HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL PRIVATE TRIP TO THE U.S. LAST JUNE, DURING WHICH HE MET WITH PRESIDENT FORD, WE HAVE TAKEN A SERIES OF STEPS WHICH INDICATE OUR FAITH IN NIMEIRI'S FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC POLICIES. THESE INCLUDE DECISIONS TO RESUME OUR AID PROGRAM IN SUDAN AND TO MAKE SUDAN ELIGIBLE FOR THE PURCHASE OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

YOU SHOULD ALSO KNOCK DOWN THE STORY OF CIA OFFICIALS ATTENDING A RECENT MEETING IN LIVERPOOL WHERE SUDANESE DISSIDENTS AND LIBYANS DISCUSSED PLANS TO OVERTHROW PRESIDENT NIMEIRI. THE REPORT OF ANY AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN SUCH A MEETING IS FALSE. THERE IS INDEED AN AMERICAN DIPLOMAT NAMED COGAN, WHO MOREOVER SERVED IN KHARTOUM SOME YEARS AGO WHEN HE BECAME FRIENDLY WITH THEN-PRIME MINISTER SADIQ AL-MAHDI. COGAN, HOWEVER, HAS NOT BEEN NEAR ENGLAND FOR SOME TIME. SINCE COGAN'S FRIENDSHIP WITH AL-MAHDI WAS PUBLICLY WELL-KNOWN, THE FABRICATORS OF THE LIVERPOOL REPORT MAY WELL HAVE USED COGAN'S NAME TO LEND VERISIMILITUDE TO THEIR STORY.

ROBINSON

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NNN

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